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Letter dated 3 December 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 30 November 2000 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq. The Minister calls attention to the ongoing wanton aggression against Iraq by United States and British aircraft in the unlawful no-flight zones and to the fact that in the period from 15 to 25 November 2000 they carried out 314 sorties, 134 of them from Saudi Arabia, 62 from Kuwait and 118 from Turkey.

The Minister reaffirms the Government of Iraq's condemnation of these acts of aggression against Iraqi territory, and he states that international responsibility for them must be borne by the United States of America, the United Kingdom and the countries that provide logistic support for this aggression, namely Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey. He urges you to perform the duties assigned to you under the Charter by halting this unwarranted aggression and ensuring that it does not recur.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Saeed H. **Hasan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 3 December 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I should like to inform you that United States and British warplanes based in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey have continued to violate the airspace of the Republic of Iraq. They carried out 314 sorties in the period from 15 to 25 November 2000, 134 of them from Saudi Arabia, 62 from Kuwait and 118 from Turkey, as shown hereunder.

1. In the northern region 118 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 12,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 1105 hours on 15 November 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 24 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Aqrah, Irbil and Ayn Zalah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1300 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1115 hours on 16 November 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 22 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Zakho, Dohuk, Amadiyah, Tall Afar East, Baibo, Aqrah, Rawanduz, Ayn Zalah and Irbil areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1445 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 1145 hours on 19 November 2000, United States and British F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 12 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Irbil, Shallalat Ba'shiqah and Zakho areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1445 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 1130 hours on 20 November 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 14 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Aqrah, Irbil, Dokan, Rawanduz, Dohuk, Zakho and Amadiyah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1500 hours, drove them off.

(e) At 1200 hours on 21 November 2000, United States and British F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 18 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Irbil, Aqrah, Rawanduz and Amadiyah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1500 hours, drove them off.

(f) At 1300 hours on 22 November 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated

Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 18 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Aqrah, Mosul, Tall Afar, Zakho and Baibo areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1505 hours, drove them off.

(g) At 1150 hours on 23 November 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 10 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Aqrah and Zakho areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1345 hours, drove them off.

2. In the southern region 196 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 9,000 to 13,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 0950 hours on 15 November 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 26 missions, 18 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and eight from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Nasiriyah, Samawah, Diwaniyah, Salman, Najaf, Hayy, Rahhaliyah and Artawi areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1205 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1020 hours on 16 November 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 26 missions, 22 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and four from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Salman, Rumaylah South, Nukhayb, Artawi, Busayyah, Ashbajah, Lasaf and Amghar areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1255 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 1040 hours on 17 November 2000, United States and British F-15, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out six missions from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and an E-2C aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Salman, Ashbajah and Ansab areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1135 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 1320 hours on 21 November 2000, United States and British F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 26 missions, 16 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 10 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Basrah, Nasiriyah, Salman, Lasaf, Samawah, Shinafiyah, Ashbajah, Hayy, Qal'at Sukkar, Amarah and Rahhaliyah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1540 hours, drove them off.

(e) At 1050 hours on 22 November 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 40 missions, 24 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 16 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Basrah, Salman, Lasaf, Diwaniyah, Najaf, Amarah, Hayy, Nasiriyah and Ali al-Gharbi areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1420 hours, drove them off.

(f) At 0755 hours on 23 November 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 28 missions, 22 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and six from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Nasiriyah, Samawah, Salman, Najaf, Razzazah, Diwaniyah, Afak, Artawi and Karbala' areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 0920 hours, drove them off.

(g) At 1425 hours on 24 November 2000, United States and British F-15, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 16 missions, 12 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and four from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Samawah, Basrah, Najaf, Ukhaydir, Jalibah, Shinafiyah, Nasiriyah, Lasaf and Qal'at Sukkar areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1545 hours, drove them off.

(h) At 1110 hours on 25 November 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 28 missions, 14 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 14 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Samawah, Amarah, Basrah, Afak, Hayy, Diwaniyah, Najaf, Ashbajah, Lasaf, Razzazah, Hashimiyah, Nu'maniyah, Qal'at Salih, Jalibah, Shatrah and Nasiriyah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1345 hours, drove them off.

This aggression illustrates the bellicose attitude being maintained by the United States of America and the United Kingdom towards Iraq. Since 1992, it has become a fixed policy aimed at undermining the country's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity and at the systematic and concerted destruction of Iraqi lives, infrastructure and civilian installations. It is a policy that has been affirmed in successive statements made by United States and British officials seeking to defend the measures being taken to enforce the no-flight zones.

The Government of Iraq categorically rejects the two so-called no-flight zones, which were imposed by unilateral decision of the United States of America and the United Kingdom and lack any legal basis. Iraq rejects all the consequences of this

illegal decision and, in particular, the flimsy excuses and pretexts used by these States in an attempt to justify their military aggression against our country.

The logistic support provided by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey to the Americans and the British makes these countries key partners in the aggression being committed against Iraq, so that they bear full international responsibility under international law. This includes liability for full compensation for the loss and damage, in both human and material terms, that is caused by these illegal practices.

The Government of Iraq further renews its call to the countries participating in this aggression to desist forthwith from internationally prohibited acts that violate Iraq's sovereignty, place its security and integrity in grave danger and pose a direct and serious threat to international peace and security.

As it condemns these acts of aggression against civilian targets and Iraqi civilian installations, the Government of Iraq urges you to perform your assigned duties with respect to the maintenance of international peace and security by intervening with the Governments of the countries in question with a view to inducing them to halt, end and desist from any resumption of their constant and unwarranted aggression against an independent, sovereign State.

(*Signed*) Mohammed Said **Al-Sahaf**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq